

13. ON THE PROBABLE CAUSE OF DEATH OF A WART-HOG
(*PHACOCHÆRUS ÆTHIOPICUS*). BY EDWARDS CRISP, M.D.,
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A male Wart-Hog, which had been twelve years in the Gardens, appeared to be in tolerable health on Sunday, June 22nd, 1862, but it was found dead on the following morning; its death therefore must have been sudden. It was in excellent condition, and weighed about two hundredweight. The stomach was greatly distended with food, so that it had eaten a hearty meal a short time before its death. The blood was fluid, and all the thoracic and abdominal viscera were tolerably healthy. Upon the fundus of the bladder was a tumor the size of a large orange, the remains of an *Echinococcus* in a state of chalky degeneration. The parietes of the cyst were covered with chalky layers, and a white thick creamy cretaceous fluid occupied the interior of the cyst.

It is curious that in the sow of this species which I examined, in *Ælian's* Wart-Hog (*P. æliani*), and in the Red River-Hog (*Potamochoerus penicillatus*), these *Echinococci* (so called) were alike present; and I may add that in these and other Pigs in which I have found these parasites (and the same may be said of the Deer and Antelopes) I have never discovered tape-worms or any kind of entozoa in the intestines.

On examining the teeth of this animal, I found a large cavity in the place of the molar tooth of the lower jaw on the right side, into which the upper molar (much elongated from want of pressure) passed; this cavity was lined with false membrane, except in two places, where the bone was denuded and of a dark colour. The enlarged tooth pressed upon this part; and it is not unlikely that this irritation, combined with a very full stomach, produced cerebral congestion or extravasation, of which the animal probably died; but as the skeleton was required, I was not permitted to examine the brain; so that the exact cause of death must remain doubtful.

As the animal died suddenly and in good condition, I had a small outlet for my dinner. As might have been supposed from the age and sex of the animal, it was rather coarse and tough; it had a porky flavour; but I believe that the flesh of a young animal would be exceedingly good. Mr. Bartlett informs me that Sir G. Grey has eaten this hog in Africa, and has stated that "its flesh was of excellent flavour." One of the peculiarities of this hog is the enormous thickness of the muscles over the ribs. I found the same in the sow; and I think that if a cross between this animal and our English Pig could be effected, it might be of great value; but of this matter I hope to speak in another communication, when comparing the anatomy of the Wart Hog with that of the other Hogs.

I may mention one interesting fact respecting the renal veins of this animal: they are supplied with two pairs of valves, so as to prevent the blood from regurgitating from the renal capsules into the kidneys. This fact I first pointed out before the Physiological Society, in 1853, in the renal veins of other animals.